IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-42 and add new claims 43-66, as set forth below.

Claims 1-42 (Canceled)

1   43.   (New) A method comprising:

2   providing a carousel schedule to a processing system, the carousel schedule including a

3   plurality of modules, at least one of the modules having at least two instances;

4   creating a metric for the carousel schedule, wherein to create the metric, the processing

5   system

6   determines an interval difference for each instance of each module of the

7   plurality of modules,

8   applies a function to the interval difference to determine a result for each

9   instance of each module, and

10   adds the result for each instance of each module to a sum, the sum

11   corresponding to the metric; and

12   outputting the metric, the metric for use in evaluating the carousel schedule.

1   44.   (New) The method of claim 43, wherein to create the metric, the

2   processing system further:

3   adds a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of any instance of any of

4   the modules equaling one; and

5   adds a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of any instance of any of

6   the modules equaling negative one.

1   45.   (New) The method of claim 43, wherein to apply a function to the interval

2   difference, the processing system:

3   determines an absolute value of the interval difference; or

4   determines a square of the interval difference; or

5   determines a Logarithmic of a number, wherein the number is determined by adding one

6   to a square of the interval difference.

1   46.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

2 providing a carousel schedule to a processing system, the carousel schedule including a

3   plurality of modules, at least one of the modules having at least two instances;

4 creating a metric for the carousel schedule, wherein to create the metric, the processing

5   system

6   determines an interval difference for each instance of each module of the

7   plurality of modules,

8   applies a function to the interval difference to determine a result for each

9   instance of each module, and

10   adds the result for each instance of each module to a sum, the sum

11   corresponding to the metric; and

12 providing the metric to a user interface, the metric for use in evaluating the carousel

13   schedule

1   47.   (New) The method of claim 46, wherein to create the metric, the

2 processing system further:

3 adds a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of any instance of any of

4   the modules equaling one; and

5 adds a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of any instance of any of

6   the modules equaling negative one.

1   48.   (New) The method of claim 46, wherein to apply a function to the interval

2   difference, the processing system:

3   determines an absolute value of the interval difference; or

4   determines a square of the interval difference; or

5   determines a Logarithmic of a number, wherein the number is determined by adding one

6   to a square of the interval difference.

1   49.   (New) A method comprising:

2   receiving a plurality of modules at a processing system, at least one module of the

3   plurality of modules having at least two instances;

4   creating a carousel including the plurality of modules, wherein to create the carousel, the

5   processing system

6   generates a first module schedule for the plurality of modules,

7   determines a first goodness metric for the first module schedule,

8   generates at least a second module schedule for the plurality of modules,

9   determines a second goodness metric for the second module schedule, and

10   selects one of the first module schedule and the second module schedule in

11   response to the first and second goodness metrics; and

12   transmitting a carousel exhibiting the selected module schedule to an insertion device for

13   encapsulation into a transmission.

1   50.   (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the selected module schedule has

2   an optimum goodness metric.

1   51.   (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the optimum goodness metric

2   corresponds to a lowest goodness metric.

1   52.   (New) A method comprising:

2   receiving a plurality of modules at a processing system, at least one module of the

3   plurality of modules having at least two instances;

4   creating a carousel including the plurality of modules, wherein to create the carousel, the

5   processing system

6   generates a plurality of module schedules for the plurality of modules,

7   determines a metric for each module schedule of the plurality of modules

8   schedules, and

9   selects one of the module schedules having an optimum metric; and

10   storing the one selected module schedule in a memory coupled with the processing

11   system.

1   53.   (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the optimum goodness metric

2   corresponds to a lowest goodness metric.

1   54.   (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising transferring the one

2   selected module schedule from the memory to an insertion device for encapsulation into a

3   transmission.

1   55.   (New) An article of manufacture comprising:

2   a computer-readable medium providing instructions that, when executed by a computer,

3   cause the computer to

4   receive a carousel schedule, the carousel schedule including a plurality of modules, at

5   least one of the modules having at least two instances;

6   create a metric for the carousel schedule, wherein creating the metric includes

7   determining an interval difference for each instance of each module of the

8   plurality of modules,

9   applying a function to the interval difference to determine a result for each

10   instance of each module, and

11   adding the result for each instance of each module to a sum, the sum

12   corresponding to the metric; and

13   output the metric, the metric for use in evaluating the carousel schedule.

1   56.   (New) The article of manufacture of claim 55, wherein creating the metric

2   further includes:

3   adding a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of any instance of any

4   of the modules equaling one; and

5   adding a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of any instance of any

6   of the modules equaling negative one.

1   57.   (New) The article of manufacture of claim 55, wherein applying a

2   function to the interval difference comprises:

3   determining an absolute value of the interval difference; or

4   determining a square of the interval difference; or

5   determining a Logarithmic of a number, wherein the number is determined by adding one

6   to a square of the interval difference.

1   58.   (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

2   a computer-readable medium providing instructions that, when executed by a computer,

3   cause the computer to

4   receive a carousel schedule, the carousel schedule including a plurality of modules, at

5   least one of the modules having at least two instances;

6   create a metric for the carousel schedule, wherein creating the metric includes

7   determining an interval difference for each instance of each module of the

8   plurality of modules,

9   applying a function to the interval difference to determine a result for each

10   instance of each module, and

11   adding the result for each instance of each module to a sum, the sum

12   corresponding to the metric; and

13   provide the metric to a user interface, the metric for use in evaluating the carousel

14   schedule

1   59.   (New) The article of manufacture of claim 58, wherein creating the metric

2   further includes:

3   adding a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of any instance of any

4   of the modules equaling one; and

5   adding a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of any instance of any

6   of the modules equaling negative one.

1   60.   (New) The article of manufacture of claim 58, wherein applying a

2   function to the interval difference comprises:

3   determining an absolute value of the interval difference; or

4   determining a square of the interval difference; or

5   determining a Logarithmic of a number, wherein the number is determined by adding one

6   to a square of the interval difference.

1   61.   (New) An article of manufacture comprising:

2   a computer-readable medium providing instructions that, when executed by a computer,

3   cause the computer to

4   receive a plurality of modules, at least one module of the plurality of modules having at

5   least two instances;

6   create a carousel including the plurality of modules, wherein creating the carousel

7   includes

8   generating a first module schedule for the plurality of modules,

9   determining a first goodness metric for the first module schedule,

10   generating at least a second module schedule for the plurality of modules,

11   determining a second goodness metric for the second module schedule,

12   and

13   selecting one of the first module schedule and the second module schedule

14   in response to the first and second goodness metrics; and

15   transmit a carousel exhibiting the selected module schedule to an insertion device for

16   encapsulation into a transmission.

1   62.   (New) The article of manufacture of claim 61, wherein the selected

2   module schedule has an optimum goodness metric.

1   63.   (New) The article of manufacture of claim 62, wherein the optimum

2   goodness metric corresponds to a lowest goodness metric.

1   64.   (New) An article of manufacture comprising:

2   a computer-readable medium providing instructions that, when executed by a computer,

3   cause the computer to

4   receive a plurality of modules, at least one module of the plurality of modules having at

5   least two instances;

6   create a carousel including the plurality of modules, wherein creating the carousel

7   includes

8   generating a plurality of module schedules for the plurality of modules,

9   determining a metric for each module schedule of the plurality of modules

10   schedules, and

11   selecting one of the module schedules having an optimum metric; and

12   store the one selected module schedule in a memory.

1   65.   (New) The article of manufacture of claim 64, wherein the optimum

2   goodness metric corresponds to a lowest goodness metric.

1   66.   (New) The article of manufacture of claim 64, wherein the instructions,

2   when executed by the computer, further cause the computer to transfer the one selected

3   module schedule from the memory to an insertion device for encapsulation into a

4   transmission.